



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

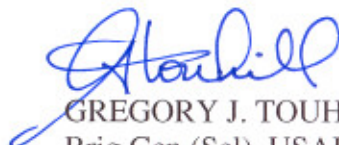
14 August 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR 81 TRW PERSONNEL

FROM: 81 TRW/CC

SUBJECT: Pet Care Plans for Natural Disasters, Contingencies, and Evacuations

1. Keesler AFB will not offer a Pet Shelter as part of its hurricane plan. All Keesler AFB personnel need to make advanced planning provisions for their pets in the event of a hurricane, natural disaster, contingency, or evacuation.
2. The lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent reductions in our resource capabilities make it unrealistic for Keesler AFB to provide adequate shelter for pets during a major disaster. Ongoing force transformations, such as the A-76 effort, will eliminate manpower previously identified to provide a pet shelter. Therefore, all pet owners who live or work on Keesler must develop alternative plans to provide care for their pets. These members will be directed to implement their pet care evacuation plan during any major disasters. The attached document identifies a number of sources that you can use to develop pet care plans.
3. Although this memo does not direct the development of formal standardized pet care plans, Commanders and First Sergeants are strongly encouraged to assist their personnel in ensuring that viable pet care plans exist. Given the variety of types of pets and differences in dietary or medical needs for animals, each owner must assess the unique needs of their pets. The individual pet owners will be responsible for all costs to implement their plans and reimbursement for relocation of pets will not be authorized.
4. Like many of you, we consider our pets part of our family and have made plans for their care as part of our family evacuation and sheltering plan. I encourage you to do the same with your pets. Your proactive planning now will ensure you and your pets will be properly taken care of if disaster strikes and give you the necessary peace of mind to focus on the mission.


GREGORY J. TOUHILL
Brig Gen (Sel), USAF
Commander

Attachment
Pet Care Planning Information

Pet Care Planning Information for Pet Owners
TAKING CARE OF PETS DURING A DISASTER OR EMERGENCY

To be sure you can properly take care of your pet during an emergency, like Hurricane Katrina, or during an evacuation, you must plan ahead.

If you have to leave your home, take your pet with you if at all possible. You are the best person to take care of your pet. Also, as the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) pointed out in a brochure it issued about preparing for a disaster, if the situation is dangerous for people, it is dangerous for animals, too.

But, before you leave, know where you can take your pet. Find out which motels or hotels are "pet friendly," or which ones will accept pets in an emergency. Or plan to go to the house of a friend or relative who will permit you to bring your pet.

Before you have to travel, get your pet used to a crate. Familiar surroundings might help ease a pet's anxiety. And getting an animal into a crate for travel will be easier once the animal is used to it.

Take pet food, medicines, vaccination records, and information about pet insurance if you have a policy. Assemble all of this into a disaster kit that you can grab as you leave.

Relying on a neighbor

If you get trapped away from your home due to a disaster or other emergency, your pet will be better off if you have already made arrangements with your neighbor or nearby friend to take care of the animal.

The temporary caretaker should have phone numbers to reach you (a cell phone number may be the best), and all the instruction necessary to properly care for the animal. Those instructions should include a signed authorization for veterinary care, and financial limits to the veterinary care.

Afterward

Emergencies can make pets display unexpected or uncharacteristic behaviors. Well-behaved animals may become aggressive and defensive after a major disruption in their lives. The animal may not return to more typical behavior for several weeks. Be careful releasing an animal after an emergency, especially in unfamiliar surroundings. Make sure it cannot escape. Do not release the animal outside until you know the area is safe, AVMA said.

Allow your pet plenty of time to rest and get used to new surroundings. Provide familiar toys, if possible.

AVMA has prepared an extensive guide to preparing for emergencies, both for pet owners and livestock owners. It is available on AVMA's website, at www.avma.org/disaster. Download a copy of "Saving the Whole Family."

The guide has checklists and helpful tips on preparing for disasters, and it explains the steps you should take once the warning has been sounded. It has information about taking care of all types of pets, including birds and snakes. It also has information about preparing livestock.

Food and Drug Administration, Center for Veterinary Medicine
7519 Standish Place, HFV-12, Rockville, Maryland 20855
Telephone: (240) 276-9300 FAX: (240) 276-9115
January 2006

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/cvm/disaster.htm>

If You Evacuate, Take Your Pets!

Your animal's best protection is to be with you, but remember, taking your pet requires special planning since **MOST SHELTERS DO NOT ALLOW PETS.**

The Humane Society of South Mississippi and the Emergency Management Agency have teamed up to provide a pet friendly evacuation shelter of last resort. We learned the hard way from Hurricane Katrina that preparations and assistance needed to be provided for pets and their owners. Several animals and their owners were put in harm's way and even perished due to the lack of evacuation options for them and their pets.

The following weblinks provide excellent resources for planning courses of actions in the event you are required to find shelter for your pet.

<http://www.hssm.org/programsevents/pet-friendly-evacuation-shelter/>

http://www.petfriendlytravel.com/?page=pets_shelters